Similarly, in the mines of public sector units engaged in the production of non-ferrous metals, modern equipment and techniques are being introduced, where possible.

Loans to small borrowers

2310. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introudce a new system to disburse loans to small borrowers; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARI): (a) and (b) The Reserve Bank of India has instructed the publics sector banks that their rural branches should fix two specific days of the month for public disbursement of loans. Reserve Bank of India has also set up a working group under the Chairmanship of the Chairman, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development to examine the existing system of small loans disbursal and to suggest improvements considered necessary.

Export of Marine Products

2311. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any fresh steps to boost the export of marine products during the Seventh Plan Period; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

Fresh steps taken to boost the export marine products during the Seventh Plan period include (1) promotion Prawn Farming and assistance for setting up prawn hatcheries and prawn seed banks (2) assistance and encouragement for production of value added items and (3) measures for exploitation of deep-sea fishery resources.

Expansion work of "Hotel Kalinga-Ashoka", Bhubaneswar

2312. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the amount so far sanctioned by the Central Government for the expansion work of "Hotel Kalinga-Ashoka" in Bhubaneswar, Orissa;

(b) the amount borne by the State Government of Orissa; and

(c) the progress so far made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) to (c) Expansion of "Hotel Kalinga-Ashoka" is ITDC's own project. The estimated cost to be borne on this project is Rs. 170 lakhs. ITDC has incurred an expenditure of Rs. 66.44 lakhs upto 31-3-1985.

The building structure has been completed; furnishing work is nearing completion; work relating to installation of lifts, airconditioning system and other services including interior work is in progress.

Setting up of Jewellery Export Centre at Ahmedabad

2313. SHRI VITHALBHAI MOTIRAM PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the former Minister of Finance, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, made an announcement for the setting up of a Jewellery Export Centre at Ahmedabad; and

(b) if so, what is the present position in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) and (b) For setting up an export-oriented gold jewellery manufacturing complex, specific proposal is required to be received from a sponsoring agency including a State Government. No specific proposal to this effect with a specific location for such a complex has been received for Ahmedabad, in absence of which no such proposal for an export-oriented gold jewellery centre for Ahmedabad could be considered.

Carpet Service Centre

2314. SHRIMATI MONIKA DAS:
SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) how many Carpet Service Centres have been sanctioned in Uttar Pradesh and how many are functioning;

(b) how many Regional Carpet Stores are functioning either under Service Centres or otherwise;

(c) whether the annual stock verification, as required under the rules, has been done in any of the above Stores; if so, the details thereof, yearwise during the last three years; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) to (d) The information is being compiled and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Central Assistance to Himachal Pradesh to Promote Tourism

2315. SHRIMATI USHA MALHOTRA:
SHRI NAND KISHORE BHATT:
SHRI BHIM RAJ:

Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an assistance to the tune of Rs. 19.45 lakhs was given to the Government of Himachal Pradesh during the Sixth Plan period for the construction of a Club House at Manali, provision of boats at Bilaspur, survey of Hot Springs in Vishist area, provision of trekking equipment and also for the construction of a Dharamshala at Nainanadevi; and

(b) if so, what progress has so far been made in completing these projects?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) and (b) The Central Department of Tourism has given financial assistance to the tune of Rs. 20.06 lakhs to the Government of Himachal Pradesh during the Sixth Plan period for the construction of a Club House at Manali, provision of boats at Pong Dam and selected lakes survey of Hot Springs in Vishist area and provision of trekking equipment. For these components Central Government has already released its full share. Construction of Dharamshala (Yatrika) at Nainadevi by Bhartiya Yatri Avas Vikas Samiti, a registered society is yet to begin as the State Government is still to finalise the allotment of land.

Quality of vegetarian food served by ITDC Hotels

2316. SHRIMATI USHA MALHOTRA:
DR. LOKESH CHANDRA:
SHRIMATI MONIKA DAS:

Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what steps are being taken to improve the quality of vegetarian food served in ITDC hotels;

(b) whether courses relating to vegetarian menus will be introduced in the catering institutes run by Government; and